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MAY

1897

THE

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

611C

OF THE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF THE

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

OF PHILADELPHIA.

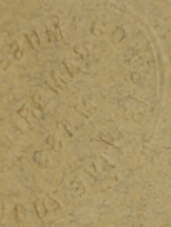
(INCORPORATED MARCH 21st, 1859.)

READ AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS AND LOAN-
HOLDERS OF THE SOCIETY.

APRIL 22d, 1897.

PHILADELPHIA:

ALLEN, LANE & SCOTT'S PRINTING HOUSE,
1211-13 Clover Street.
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THE
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA.

OFFICE, THIRTY-FIFTH STREET AND GIRARD AVENUE,
FAIRMOUNT PARK.

OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR ENDING APRIL 28TH, 1898.

PRESIDENT,
CHARLES PLATT.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:
J. VAUGHAN MERRICK, CHARLES W. TROTTER.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY,
PROF. HENRY C. CHAPMAN.

RECORDING SECRETARY,
ARTHUR ERWIN BROWN.

TREASURER,
HENRY T. COATES.

DIRECTORS:

WILLIAM H. MERRICK,	CHRISTIAN C. FEBIGER,
ISAAC J. WISTAR,	DAVID W. SELLERS,
FRANCIS T. FASSITT,	SAMUEL G. DIXON, M. D.,
GALLOWAY C. MORRIS,	J. BAYARD HENRY,
FRANCIS W. LEWIS, M. D.,	JAMES B. LEONARD,
CHARLES M. LEA,	HARRY B. TYLER.

ACTUARY,
CHARLES L. JEFFERSON.

SOLICITORS:
SAMUEL WAGNER, WM. W. MONTGOMERY.

REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

PHILADELPHIA, April 22d, 1897.

THE Board of Directors of the Zoological Society of Philadelphia submit to the members and loan-certificate holders their twenty-fifth Annual Report of the operations of the Society during the year ending 28th February, 1897.

GENERAL AFFAIRS AND FINANCES.

The number of members on the 1st of March, 1897 was—

Annual members	370
Life members	1,334
Corresponding members	9
Honorary members	21
Perpetual members	261
Total members (exclusive of loanholders) . . .	<u>1,995</u>

The following is a report in detail of the admissions and receipts for the year:—

Adults (paying at gates)	111,878
Children (paying at gates)	39,572
Members (including Life and Annual Members, loanholders' annual, and complimentary annual tickets)	1,607
Loanholders' single tickets	8,848
Free admissions (charitable institutions, donors' tickets, &c.)*	2,763
Coupon tickets	346
Excursion tickets	8,616
	<u>173,630</u>

* In addition to these, 50,000 tickets were issued to the Board of Education, for the admission of pupils of the Public Schools.

Monthly Record of Visitors for 1896-97, with corresponding account for 1895-96.

MONTH.	1895-96.	1896-97.	COMPARISON.
March	7,896	5,574	Decrease . . 2,322
April	12,788	12,996	Increase . . 208
May	27,385	25,743	Decrease . . 1,642
June	19,932	16,158	" . . 3,774
July	28,267	20,533	" . . 7,734
August	31,203	21,857	" . . 9,346
September	28,679	25,234	" . . 3,445
October	16,695	16,184	" . . 511
November	11,514	11,377	" . . 137
December	8,079	7,508	" . . 571
January	5,124	5,429	Increase . . 305
February	6,112	5,037	Decrease . . 1,075
	203,674	173,630	Decrease . . 30,044

Average daily admissions 476

The greatest number of visitors on any one day was
on Saturday, May 30th 5,177

Monthly Record of Receipts from Admissions for 1896-97, with corresponding account for 1895-96.

MONTH.	1895-96.	1896-97.	COMPARISON.
March . .	\$1,465 42	\$905 76	Decrease . . \$559 66
April . .	2,167 32	2,202 65	Increase . . 35 33
May . .	3,740 25	3,381 84	Decrease . . 358 41
June . .	2,735 34	2,041 27	" . . 694 07
July . .	3,982 54	2,985 33	" . . 997 21
August . .	4,011 46	2,669 61	" . . 1,341 85
September	4,212 07	3,292 14	" . . 919 93
October . .	2,447 47	2,008 41	" . . 439 06
November	1,386 78	1,440 14	Increase . . 53 36
December	1,154 73	1,091 91	Decrease . . 62 82
January . .	869 36	856 49	" . . 12 87
February,	994 18	904 67	" . . 89 51
	\$29,166 92	\$23,780 22	Decrease . . \$5,386 70

Average daily receipts from admissions \$65 15
 The largest amount of receipts at the gates on any
 one day was on Saturday, July 4th 577 00

Total Receipts on the several days of the week, and their respective averages for 1896-97.

RANK.	DAYS.	TOTAL RECEIPTS.	AVERAGE.
1	Sunday	\$8,752 15	\$165 13
2	Saturday	7,000 00	134 61
3	Thursday	1,789 51	34 41
4	Friday	1,686 96	32 44
5	Monday	1,567 36	30 14
6	Wednesday	1,498 01	28 81
7	Tuesday	1,486 23	28 58
		\$23,780 22	

The receipts from admissions and incidental sources have reached a lower point than in any previous year since the opening of the Gardens. This large decrease in income is alarming, even though its simplest explanation would seem to lie in the unproductiveness of all forms of industry during the same period.

The condition is sufficiently serious to justify a further examination here.

That the Board has made every effort to meet the reduced income is best shown by the fact that the present cost of operating the Gardens is no greater than it was twenty years ago, since which time three large buildings have been erected, a fourth has been much enlarged, many out-door enclosures have been added, and the cultivated area of the grounds has been increased by one-third. Indeed, it is not easy to say where the practice of economy could be further applied.

The other side of the finances, however—the devising of means by which the receipts from admissions may be stimulated—is difficult in the extreme. The very permanence of the exhibition destroys much of the ordinary advantage

of advertising, a disposition being usual among people to put off that which may be done at any time, with the frequent result that the proposed visit is not paid at all. Furthermore, the provisions of the Society's charter limit its functions to the simple exhibition of wild and other animals, forbidding all performances or exhibitions foreign to that purpose, or of sensational character. It is therefore at a disadvantage in competing for popular support with the many resorts able to offer striking and varied novelties, which always attract temporary interest from the public. Again, both by its charter and by the location of the Gardens upon a portion of Fairmount Park, the sale of wines and malt drinks is not permitted upon the grounds, thus putting out of reach such sources of income as the evening concerts, which are universally of great profit to like institutions in continental Europe. While it is true that the Board and the Society in general are in full accord with the spirit of these restrictions, and while there is probably no considerable number of our citizens who would wish to see them even relaxed, it is yet proper to direct attention to the fact that the course followed by the Society in these respects has deprived it of a considerable portion of the ordinary revenue of such resorts. There is probably no Zoological Garden in existence, pursuing strictly these lines of exclusion, which is supported by its admission receipts, without aid from State or city.

By consent, as well as by necessity, these paths not being open to our Society, the experience of the last few years is convincing that the Gardens would have been long since closed and the collections dispersed without the appropriations which the City Councils have made to the Commissioners of Fairmount Park for its preservation, the amount for 1897 being \$5000 for permanent improvements and \$10,000 for maintenance, a consideration for which is the issue of 125,000 tickets to the Board of Education for admittance of pupils of the Public Schools.

The alternative between this appropriation and the closing of the Gardens would be continuous appeals for private subscription, a resource which in the past has not proved

adequate, and which at the best furnishes a basis of existence so uncertain as to mean in most cases only a process of gradual decay, to which prompt and sudden dissolution is to be preferred.

As the whole of the admission receipts are employed in the maintenance of the Gardens, the small additional sums contributed by the city to make up the yearly deficit, may perhaps be regarded as the cheapest and most effective means of preserving to Philadelphia one of its public institutions whose local popularity is undoubtedly great; whose reputation extends through the whole country, and which belongs to a class, by the consent of all nations, filling a necessary place among the educational and diverting influences of human society.

THE GARDENS.

On the 1st of March the specimens living in the collection numbered 292 mammals, 426 birds, 225 reptiles, and 37 batrachians; a total of 980 animals.

The accessions from all sources during the year were as follows:—

MAMMALS:—

Purchased	102
Presented	40
Bred in the Gardens	24
	— 166

BIRDS:—

Purchased	119
Presented	48
Bred in the Gardens	1
	— 168

REPTILES AND BATRACHIANS:—

Purchased	222
Presented	72
	— 294
	— 628

As is customary in this report, some of the most interesting specimens received will be briefly noticed.

On March 9th a raccoon-like dog (*Canis procyonoides*), from northeastern Asia, was purchased, being the second

of this species which the collection has contained. At the same time a pair of plantain squirrels (*Sciurus badging*) were received from Java.

On March 12th a Rosehill parrakeet (*Platycercus eximius*), native to southeastern Australia and Tasmania, was captured in the Gardens. This bird, of course an escaped captive, was first observed flying among the trees in the month of October previous, and had been seen at intervals throughout the winter. The lowest temperature recorded at the Gardens during this period was slightly below zero, Fahrenheit. The case is of interest as showing the endurance sometimes disclosed by individuals belonging to species wholly unused to such extremes under nature.

An adult male sable antelope (*Hippotragus niger*) was purchased on March 19th, and was new to the collection.

In April a specimen of Hutchin's goose was purchased, and also two graceful ground doves (*Geopelia cuneata*), from Australia. On the same day a fine example of the glaucous macaw (*Ara glauca*) was presented by Mrs. Maria Simpson, of Philadelphia.

A male Indian chevrotain (*Tragulid memmina*), purchased April 25th, unfortunately died a few weeks later. This species had never before been shown in the Gardens.

On the same day a male crowned bushbuck (*Cephalophus coronatus*) was received by purchase from William Jamrach, of London. This group of small and graceful antelopes, known as bushbucks, or *duikers*, are found in brush-covered regions of Africa, south of about fifteen degrees of north latitude. None of them have before been exhibited in our Gardens, and the one now in question was one of three specimens which were the first to be received alive in London. With the same shipment arrived a Gaimard's rat kangaroo (*Bettongia gaimardi*), from New South Wales; a male Punjab wild sheep (*Ovis vignei*), native of the Himalaya Mountains; and a male wild goat, from the island of Ioura, in the Grecian archipelago. The Grecian ibex (*Capra ægagrus*) was formerly abundant in Greece and the contiguous islands, but it appears probable that the goats

now found wild in that region are the descendants of domesticated animals.

Two gazelles (*Gazella muscatensis*), from southeastern Arabia, came at the same time. All of these animals were new to the collection. A number of other mammals and birds of greater or less interest were purchased at the same time.

On May 13th a Campbell's monkey (*Cercopithecus campbelli*) was presented by Mr. George P. Goll, of Philadelphia.

Other arrivals in May were a female red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), imported from Germany to mate the surviving stag in the collection; two Müller's parakeets (*Tanygnathus mulleri*), from Celebes, purchased; a small specimen of the rough-eyed caiman (*Caiman sclerops*), from Bujio, Panama, presented by Mr. Maurice Ostheimer, of Wyncote, Pa.; and two slow loris (*Nycticebus tardigradus*), from India, by purchase.

Mr. I. Jones Taylor presented a mealy Amazon (*Chrysotis farinosa*) early in June. Two pigeons were received from a dealer on the 23d which appear to be *Columba phæonota*, of South Africa, a rare species seldom exhibited.

A considerable assortment, mostly of birds, was purchased on June 24th, among which was the all-green parakeet (*Brotoperys tirica*) of Brazil. A moustache monkey (*Cercopithecus cephus*), from West Africa, was also new to the collection. A fine pair of moor macaques (*Macacus maurus*), from Celebes, were purchased at the same time.

On June 30th several animals, among them a two-toed sloth (*Cholopus didactylus*), were received from Venezuela, having been sent by Mr. George Frederick Russell. A melancholy interest attaches to these animals from the fact that this gentleman, a young journalist of Philadelphia, had undertaken an extensive trip, with the purpose of exploration and the collection of natural history objects in the interior of northern South America, an enterprise which was terminated by his death, a few months after these specimens were sent, from fever, while descending one of the Columbian rivers.

Four California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*) were purchased on July 3d. Later in the month a pale-headed

tree boa (*Epicortes angulifer*) was presented by Mr. E. F. Cabada, of Cienfuegos, Cuba, and two birds of great beauty, the banded cotinga (*Cotinga cincta*), from South America, were purchased.

Two young brown pelicans (*Pelecanus fuscus*) were presented on the 1st of August by Captain Kilgore, of the United States Revenue Steamer "Boutwell," having been taken by him from the breeding grounds off the Carolina coast.

On the 8th of August an addition of much interest was made in a pair of young California vultures (*Otogyps californicus*). This vulture, almost reaching the dimensions of the condor, inhabits a singularly limited range for a bird of such powerful flight, in the coast range of California, south of the latitude of San Francisco. For many years their numbers have been diminishing, and they are believed to be near extinction. These specimens, which appear to be of each sex, were taken from the nest in Monterey County, and were hatched about April 1st. Probably not more than two or three living examples of this fine species have ever been placed upon exhibition, and at the present time it is not known that any other specimens are in captivity. They were obtained by the Society through the efforts of the late Capt. Charles Bendire, U. S. A., of the National Museum.

On the 29th of August a stump-tailed lizard (*Trachysaurus rugosus*) and a cyclodus lizard (*Tiliqua scincoides*), both from Australia, were received as a gift from Mr. Harold Hanauer, of London.

A green-cheeked Amazon (*Chrysotis viridigenalis*), from Mexico, was presented by Mrs. Mattie Ardell.

On September 18th a monkey was purchased, which had arrived in New York on a steamer from Singapore; the species is not easy to determine, but it appears to belong to *Semnopithecus obscurus*, Reid, a little-known member of that large and variable genus.

On the 26th of the same month Mr. F. G. Stewart presented a rattlesnake from San Diego, Cal., quite unlike any which the collection had previously received. It is proba-

bly the red diamond rattlesnake (*Crotalus adamanteus ruber*, Cope), of which few specimens have come under observation.

Among a number of snakes received in November from Marion County, Florida, was a living specimen of *Stilosoma extenuata*, Brown, a rare and peculiar form, originally described from examples received dead at the Gardens. The one now in question lived for some weeks, and confirmed the opinion previously formed as to its subterranean habits. This specimen burrowed with such rapidity and ease that sandy loam formed scarcely any impediment to its progress.

On the 4th of December Dr. William H. Furness, 3d, and Dr. Hiller returned to Philadelphia from a journey to the interior of Borneo, bringing with them some monkeys which the generosity of Dr. Furness has added to the collection. Among them was a female orang-utan (*Simia satyrus*), three years old, which has proved to be a most interesting acquisition. The need for special care in the feeding and general surroundings of so young and delicate an animal is obvious, and she has not yet been placed upon exhibition, but it is hoped that such a disposition may be made of her at an early day. A fine female Japanese monkey (*Macacus fuscatus*) was also brought from Japan by Dr. Furness. The species has not previously been shown in the Gardens, and is of great interest. This monkey resides further north than any other species known, and endures without hardship exposure to our winter climate.

A young male Bengalese cat (*Felis bengalensis*) was purchased on the 10th of February, and has been placed with a female of the same species in the small Mammal House.

Four beavers were received on the 12th by exchange with the National Zoological Park, and are much valued, as for some time past these animals have not been satisfactorily represented in the Gardens.

A young female fox, received from Para in February, is probably *Canis azaræ*, though the variability of the smaller members of the South American *Canidæ* is so great that their identification, especially when immature, is often uncertain.

The births for the year were as follows:—

1896.

March	23.	1	Axis Deer (<i>Cervus axis</i>).
April	24.	4	Prairie Wolves (<i>Canis latrans</i>).
May	22.	1	Common Deer (<i>Cariacus virginianus</i>).
"	31.	1	Summer Duck (<i>Aix sponsa</i>).
June	5.	1	Fallow Deer (<i>Cervus dama</i>).
"	15.	1	Fallow Deer (<i>C. dama</i>).
July	18.	1	Hog Deer (<i>Cervus porcinus</i>).
"	22.	1	Hog Deer (<i>C. porcinus</i>).
"	23.	1	Hog Deer (<i>C. porcinus</i>).
"	27.	1	Hog Deer (<i>C. porcinus</i>).
August	3.	1	Gray Squirrel (<i>Sciurus carolinensis pennsylvanicus</i>).
Sept.	8.	1	Chapman's Zebra (<i>Equus burchelli chapmani</i>). ♀
Oct.	24.	1	Indian Antelope (<i>Antilope cervicapra</i>).
"	24.	1	American Buffalo (<i>Bison bison</i>). ♂

1897.

Jan.	4.	1	Red Kangaroo (<i>Macropus rufus</i>).
"	27.	1	Indian Antelope (<i>Antilope cervicapra</i>).
Feb.	22.	1	Red Kangaroo (<i>Macropus rufus</i>).

The tenth Annual Report of the Directors (1882) contained a list of all the species which up to that time had bred in the Gardens, showing that 46, viz., 39 species of mammals, 4 of birds, and 3 of reptiles, had bred out of a total number of 649 species which had been exhibited. A comparison is interesting with a recently revised list, in which 69 species of mammals, 17 of birds, 16 of reptiles, and 2 of batrachians—in all, 104 species—have bred out of a total number of 1206 which the collection has contained up to the present time.

The propagation of some of our native animals which are becoming scarce in a wild state has been conducted with as large a measure of success as seems possible in the limited space which can be allotted to any one species in the Gardens. This is notably the case with the American buffalo, whose future existence seems now to depend wholly upon private effort. Those in the Gardens now number 16, of which 9 are females, all having been bred there with the exception of 2, procured by exchange for those of our own breeding, to infuse a new strain into the herd. In October last a four-year-old bull was received in return for

one of the same age from Mr. John H. Starin of Glen Island, New York.

Two have died from old age since the date of the last report. Much care has been exercised in the selection and breeding of these noble animals, and it is doubtful if better specimens are now in existence than those in our possession.

Having in view both self-interest and the obligation which the Society should acknowledge towards this vanishing race, the question of providing larger and more suitable enclosures for them is becoming important.

Similar provision must soon be made for the elk.

The interior of the new Monkey House was completed and opened to the public in the month of September, and the experience of the winter has been most gratifying as to its fitness. The outside cages, which alone remain to complete the plan, are now under contract, and it is expected that they will be ready for use early in the summer.

The past year has witnessed two noteworthy additions to the number of zoological gardens in the United States, one at Pittsburgh, in our own State, where a collection of importance is being formed in Shenley Park, and the second in New York. Within the present year the New York Zoological Society has received from the city a grant of 261 acres of land in Bronx Park, upon which it is proposed to establish a zoological park on a scale heretofore unequalled.

In the near future, collections of living animals will exist in nearly all of the larger cities in the United States. Our own Society may feel just pride that its example was the first in America, in a field the importance of which is receiving such widespread recognition, but it must not be forgotten that it follows as a necessary result of thus realizing one of the Society's objects, that if the pre-eminence which has hitherto been accorded to its Gardens is to be maintained in coming years, it can only be through the co-operation of all influences, public and private, to which that end appeals as one worthy of accomplishment.

By order of the Board,

ARTHUR ERWIN BROWN,

Secretary.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURES

For fiscal year ending March 1st, 1897.

INCOME.

Members' fees and dues	\$605 00	
Admission receipts	23,780 22	
Interest, discount, &c.	1,059 09	
Sundry receipts	628 90	
Sale of guide books	104 40	
Special relief fund	413 00	
Received from the city of Philadelphia through the Commissioners of Fairmount Park	10,000 00	
Donations	30 00	
	<hr/>	\$36,620 61

EXPENDITURES.

(Exclusive of Permanent Improvements, &c.)

Salaries and wages	\$18,117 00	
Office expenses	220 21	
General expenses	17,143 12	
Purchase of animals	4,856 22	
	<hr/>	\$40,336 55
Balance to debit of profit and loss	3,715 94	
	<hr/>	\$36,620 61

CAPITAL.

Receipts and expenditures for the year ending March 1st, 1897.

RECEIPTS.

Received from the city of Philadelphia through the Commissioners of Fairmount Park	<hr/>	\$5,000 00
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EXPENDITURES.

New monkey house (on account of)	\$7,875 23	
Balance (being excess of expenditures over re- ceipts of capital and provided from profit and loss)	2,875 23	
	<hr/>	\$5,000 00

HENRY T. COATES,

Treasurer.

Examined and found correct.

SAMUEL G. DIXON,

FRANCIS W. LEWIS,

Committee on Audit.

